

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FMC-04

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02 DLOS-06 L-03 AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7291

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, TH

SUBJECT: OCEAN SHIPPING - LASH

REF: A. BANGKOK 15251 B. BANGKOK 5001

TOKYO FOR MARITIME ATTACHE

PASS: MR. RICHARD GAGE, OFFICE INT'L. ACTIVITIES, MARITIME ADMIN.

1. EMBOFF ARRANGED CALL OCT. 9 FOR MR. WILLIAM MORTSON, HONG KONG-BASED PFEL REP FOR SEA, AND LOCAL PFEL AGENT ON DR. DIRILAK CHANDRANGSU, UNDER SECY OF STATE, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS. EMBOFF REMINDED SIRILAK THAT HE HAD INDICATED (REF. B) AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO INTRODUCTION LASH INTO THAILAND AND HAD GIVEN INTERPRETATION THAT NO THAI LAW OR REGULATION HAD TO BE CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE LASH. SIRILAK REPLIED THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN HIS POSITION AND THAT HE HAD BEEN AWAITING FORMAL APPLICATION FROM PFEL TO START LASH SERVICE. LOCAL AGENT SAID APPLICATION MADE MORE THAN ONE YEAR AGO, FACT OF WHICH SIRILAK UNAWARE.

2. AT THIS POINT IN CONVERSATION SIRILAK CALLED IN BOTH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF HIS DEPUTIES, ONE OF WHOM SAID HE HAD JUST RECEIVED

PFEL'S APPLICATION FROM HARBOR DEPT. SIRILAK THEN REPEATED TO DEPUTIES HIS POSITION ON MATTER, ASKED THEM TO EXPEDITE MATTERS AND INSTRUCTED ONE WITH APPLICATION TO MEET SEPARATELY THIS WEEK WITH LOCAL PFEL AGENT AND PREPARE APPLICATION WITH RECOMMENDATION (PRESUMABLY POSITIVE) FOR SUBMISSION TO MINISTER. SIRILAK SAID MINISTER COULD DECIDE MATTER WITHOUT CHECKING WITH OTHER RTG OFFICIALS.

3. ON MATTER AVAILABILITY OF THAI LIGHTERS, SIRILAK POINTED OUT THAT NONE SUCH HAS CONFIGURATION LASH LIGHTERS NOR CAN THEY BE CARRIED ON LASH MOTHER SHIPS. THUS, HIS INTERPRETATION (REF.B) STANDS THAT MINISTER HAS AUTHORITY TO PERMIT LASH LIGHTERS TO REMAIN IN THAI WATERS FOR CONTINUOUS PERIODS OF AS MUCH AS ONE YEAR AT A TIME.

4. COMMENT: SIRILAK SEEMED TO RETAIN GENUINE ENTHUSIASM FOR LASH. HE APOLOGIZED FOR LONG DELAY IN HANDLING APPLICATION. PRESUMABLY DECISION OF MINISTER ON APPLICATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING IN NEAR FUTURE. MORTSON INFORMED EMBOFF PRIVATELY THAT PFEL STILL UNCERTAIN AS TO WHEN IT WANTS TO BEGIN LASH SERVICE TO THAILAND, FOR REASONS OTHER THAN FINAL RTG APPROVAL.
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